



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS and JUDGES 26 March 2024

The Executive has recently been dealing with issues about Judges and Clubs not running trials as approved in schedules. This has the potential for trials to not meet the regulations, and leaves Clubs and the Executive exposed to possible protests.

The issues recently have been with Retriever Trials.

The Executive would like to remind both Judges and Clubs of the following regulations:

Reg. Gen. 11. Firing of Gun In all trials shots shall be fired in an upright position from the shoulder in a realistic hunting-like manner in the interest of gun safety. Where any regulation makes reference to the words “gun” or “guns”, this is to be interpreted as being inclusive of alternative blank shot firing devices. Whether using a gun or an alternative blank shot firing device, all regulations must be complied with. If a club is using an alternative blank shot firing device, other than a modified shotgun, the schedule for the trial must include notice of this.”

Reg. Ret. 8. Blank Shots In all Retriever trials the handler is required to fire a blank shot towards all thrown birds while the birds are in the air. In Retriever trials where blind retrieves are included blank shots may be fired. The firing sequence will be as instructed by the Judge. Failure to fire such blank shots through neglect of the handler will incur a loss of up to six control points. By permission of the Judge, the blank shots may be fired by an official of the Club provided the handler still holds a gun throughout the trials. Where a physical disability makes it impossible for a handler to hold a gun, the Judge may by prior agreement waive the necessity to do so.

Reg. Ret. 12. Delivery of Game A dog may sit or stand to deliver game. When the dog is delivering to hand, the handler shall receive the game with one hand, the gun held in the other hand in a safe position. All game must be held until taken by a steward or may be placed in a pocket or other container or game bag. Where physical disability makes it impossible for a handler to hold a gun while accepting delivery of the game, the Judge may, by prior agreement, waive the necessity to do so.

The Executive trust that this email gives notice that there is an expectation for championship trials to be held under the current Rules and the Regulations of the New Zealand Gundog Trial Association as approved in a clubs’ schedule.

At the same time, we are aware that on the day of the trial, there may be extenuating circumstances that require a change. If this is the case, the Executive will be contacting clubs and judges to understand what happened.

We don’t consider Championship level trialists being unfamiliar with the normal equipment in use at a trial, a reason to make a change from the schedule. It is expected that Championship level trialists are familiar with the safe and appropriate use of a firearm in a trial, and can guide their dogs accordingly.

Should it be found there has been a blatant disregard for the Regulations, the Executive will consider what actions will be taken. The Executive is very mindful that it may be innocent competitors who bear the brunt of any imposed penalties if these regulation breaches continue.

The Trailing community is also reminded, that if Regulations are outdated and no longer fit for purpose, there is a process for change, and until the Regulations are formally altered, they need to be adhered to.

The NZGTA Executive.